

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-9, 15-16, 18, 21, 24-29, 33 and 35-36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,222,333 to *Wenzel et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,512,085 to *Clary*.

Claims 1 and 21 have been amended to overcome the above identified rejection.

For example *Wenzel et al.* discloses a rubber bed 10. In addition, *Wenzel et al.* discloses type holders 18 which can be connected to rubber bed 10. *Wenzel et al.* does not disclose the following features of claim 1:

at least one engaging part for a releasable interconnection thereof with said stamp plate carrier, and at least one engaging part for releasable interconnection with said plurality of stamp characters, respectively wherein said plurality of engaging parts are formed by a plurality of grooves forming a corresponding plurality of web structures.

In addition, *Wenzel et al.* does not disclose the following features of claim 21:

at least one engaging part for a releasable interconnection thereof with said stamp plate carrier, and at least one engaging part for releasable interconnection with said plurality of stamp characters, respectively wherein said plurality of engaging parts are formed by a plurality of grooves forming a corresponding plurality of web structures.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has mischaracterized the term "stamp plate" with respect to the disclosure of *Wenzel et al.* and has indicated that the individual typeset element 18 referred to as a "typeholder" is the same as a stamp plate.

It is respectfully submitted that this characterization is incorrect based upon the language of claims 1 and 21.

For example, stamp plates are actually used to hold typeholders, in particular, as stated in claim 1 the stamp plate includes:

at least one engaging part for releasable interconnection with said plurality of stamp characters, respectively...

This feature recited in claim 1 is completely different from the "typeholder" 18 of *Wenzel et al.* in that this typeholder 18 in *Wenzel et al.* discloses a fixed typeholder which does not allow for the "releaseable interconnection with said plurality of stamp characters..."

Claim 1 also includes the term:

"plurality of stamp characters" which is an entirely different type of element from a stamp plate.

Because the stamp plate of claim 1 allows for releasable interconnection with a plurality of stamp characters, at most, the only element in *Wenzel et al.* which could be characterized as a stamp plate is the bed 10. Alternatively, the only element in *Wenzel et al.* which could be characterized as a "plurality of stamp characters" would be the "typeholder 18".

This same feature is also recited in claim 21. Therefore, we believe that the Examiner's application of *Wenzel et al.* was improper.

This is because the typeholders 18 of *Wenzel et al.* are not stamp plates at all as described in claims 1 and 21 of the present invention.

Wenzel et al. merely mentions that the rubber bed may be fixed on a rubber stamp, however there are no details that are provided to achieve this type of connection.

In the present application as shown in FIGS. 4-6, letters/ and characters 9 which are similar to the type-holder 18 are shown connected to a stamp plate 3. This type of disclosure demonstrates that the rubber bed 10 of *Wenzel et al.* is clearly a stamp plate and not a stamp plate carrier.

Furthermore, as indicated by the amendments to claims 1 and 21, the present invention as claimed in claims 1 and 21 relates to a "self inking" hand stamp, having a "turning mechanism". These features are not shown in *Wenzel et al.*.

The Examiner has combined *Wenzel et al.* with the disclosure of *Clary*.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has also misapplied the reference to *Clary*.

Clary describes a two-color hand stamp made of substantially three components that are detachably interconnectable. These three components are: (1) a stamp base, A (a stationary stamp base) which is mounted to a handle C, (2) a securing means E, and (3) a type bar F. All three components are arranged on top of each other and are provided in a plate-like form. The securing means E may hold a type bar F (or also a type bar G) and may be detached from the stationary stamp base A. The connection and detachment of the separate components A, E, F, (and G) is effected with the aid of dovetailed grooves 53 and corresponding dove-tailed tongues 52 which are formed on the lower and upper sides of the components. Letters or stamp characters 61 are provided which may be received in the grooves 60 in the type bar F (See FIG. 2 and 4).

It is respectfully submitted that the differences between *Clary* and the present invention are substantial. For example, the type bar F, or G which relate to reference numerals 52 and 53 are dovetail parts which are not for the releasable connection

with stamp characters. These characters 52 and 53 are merely for the detachable connection to the securing means E and the type bar F, or the type bar G which has nothing to do with engaging parts formed by web and groove structures for releasable connection with stamp characters.

Instead, the stamp characters of *Clary* are essentially associated with reference numeral 61 and are carried by type bar F or G as disclosed in *Clary*. In addition, the reference to *Clary* is not directed towards a "self inking hand stamp" having a "turning mechanism" as claimed in claims 1 or 21. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as claimed in independent claims 1 and 21 are patentable over the above cited references taken either singly or in combination. This is because even after the combination of *Clary* and *Wenzel et al.*, all of the features in independent claims are not taught. It is also respectfully submitted that since there is no suggestion to combine the references to *Wenzel et al.* or *Clary* that these references could only be combined using impermissible hindsight.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-3, 11-12, 15-16, 18, 22-23 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Wenzel et al. and *Clary* and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 3,442,309 to *Funhashi*. The Examiner has also rejected claims 14, 17, 20 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wenzel et al.* and *Clary* and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,809,886 to *Faber*. The Examiner has rejected claims 19 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wenzel et al.* in view of, *Clary* and *Funahashi*, as applied to claims 2-3, 11-12, 15-16, 18, 22-23 and 33 above, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,360,658 to *Benson*.

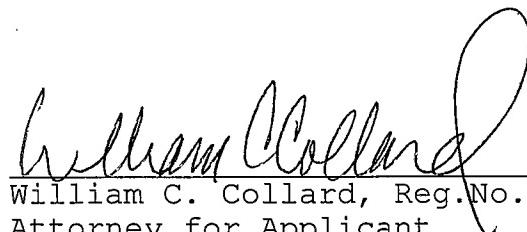
As presented above, *Wenzel et al.* does not disclose a self inking stamp plate having a turning mechanism and engaging parts for attaching to both 1) a stamp plate carrier; and/or 2) plurality of stamp characters. In addition, none of the other references disclose engaging parts on a stamp plate for attaching to both 1) a stamp plate carrier and 2) letters or stamp characters respectively. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims 1-12, 14-30, and 32-36 are patentable over the above identified references taken either singly or in combination.

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In conclusion, claims 1, 15, 16, 18, 21, 33, 35 and 36 have been amended, and claims 1-12, 14-19, 21-30 and 32-36 remain in the application.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining claims are allowable. Therefore, early allowance of the remaining claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802

William C. Collard, Reg. No. 38,411
Attorney for Applicant

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